

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are currently pending.

102(e)/103(a) Rejections

Claims 1-4 were rejected as anticipated by or, in the alternative, obvious over Kaibe (U.S. Patent No. 6,046,119). Applicants presume that the reference to “Hermann” on page 5 of the Office Action is meant to refer to Kaibe. Applicants traverse the rejections.

Kaibe discloses a processed fabric having two layers: a base fabric and a moisture-permeable waterproof resin, including organic fine particles, that coats at least one surface of the base fabric. See, e.g., Kaibe, col. 2, lines 10-15. Kaibe also discloses a processed fabric having three layers: (a) a base fabric, (b) a moisture-permeable waterproof resin, including organic fine particles, that coats at least one surface of the base fabric, and (c) another resin layer overcoating the waterproof resin and free of organic fine particles. See, e.g., Kaibe, col. 3, lines 52-55.

In contrast, claim 1 recites three layers comprising a base fabric, a moisture-permeable resin layer, and a surface protective resin that includes organic fine particles. In claim 1, it is the surface protective resin that includes the organic fine particles and the moisture-permeable resin layer that is free of the particles. Whereas, Kaibe teaches the opposite, i.e., the moisture-permeable resin layer includes the particles and the overcoating layer does not. Therefore, claim 1 and its dependent claims are not anticipated by Kaibe.

Furthermore, there is neither teaching nor suggestion in Kaibe to modify its fabric structure to place organic fine particles in its overcoating layer.

Moreover, as recognized by the present inventors, the structure of claim 1, in which the organic fine particles are in an outer layer, away from the base fabric, provides improved treatment and release of humidity, improved water resistance of the fabric, reduced deterioration of the original function of the fabric, and/or fewer defects in the moisture-permeable resin layer over the structure of Kaibe. See, e.g., the Specification, page 9, line 6 – page 10, line 13.

Therefore, claim 1 and its dependent claims are not obvious over Kaibe.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the claims as presently written are allowable and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

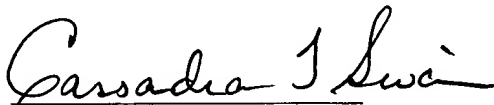
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any information concerning this application.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Kenyon & Kenyon Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 1, 2004

By:



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